It is *not* correct that there is a sharp rise in desertification.

(b) Does not arise,

(c) Assessment of the extent of desertification and decline in land under forest cover at the end of 1988 and since the beginning of 1989 has not -been carried out. Desertification is a process which extends over a period of time and its estimation over short periods will not provide interpretable data,

(d) The National Forest Policy has been revised already in December, 1988.

Credit-deposit ratio

*245. SHRI ASHIS SEN; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the national average of credit-deposit ratio at present; and

(b) what is the ratio pertaining to the States of Maharashtra, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh^ Punjab and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a!) The credit-deposit ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as on the last Friday of December 1989 at all-India level was 61.9 per cent,

(b) The credit-deposit ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as en th* last Friday of December, 1988 in the States of Maharashtra, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are given below:

Last Friday of December, 1988	Credit + Deposit Radio (%)
Maharashtra	**72.1**
Assam	**54.6**
Orissa	83.9
West Bengal	50.3
Rajasthah	60.4
Madhya Pradesh	63.8
Punjab	41.2
Uttar Pradesh	43.4

Assocham's suggestion for new foreign investment formula to increase foreign investment

*246. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India has suggested a new foreign investment formula to accelerate :thi flow of foreign investment and technology into the country;

(b) whether Government propose to consider the suggestions of the ASSOCHAM in this regard;

■ (c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No Sir, now new formula has been suggested to the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Gene Parks for medicinal plants

*247. SHRl SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT; AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to establish 100 Gene Parks for medicinal plants all fiver the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the Statewise location and also the funds to be allocated for each such project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

I (b) Does not arise.